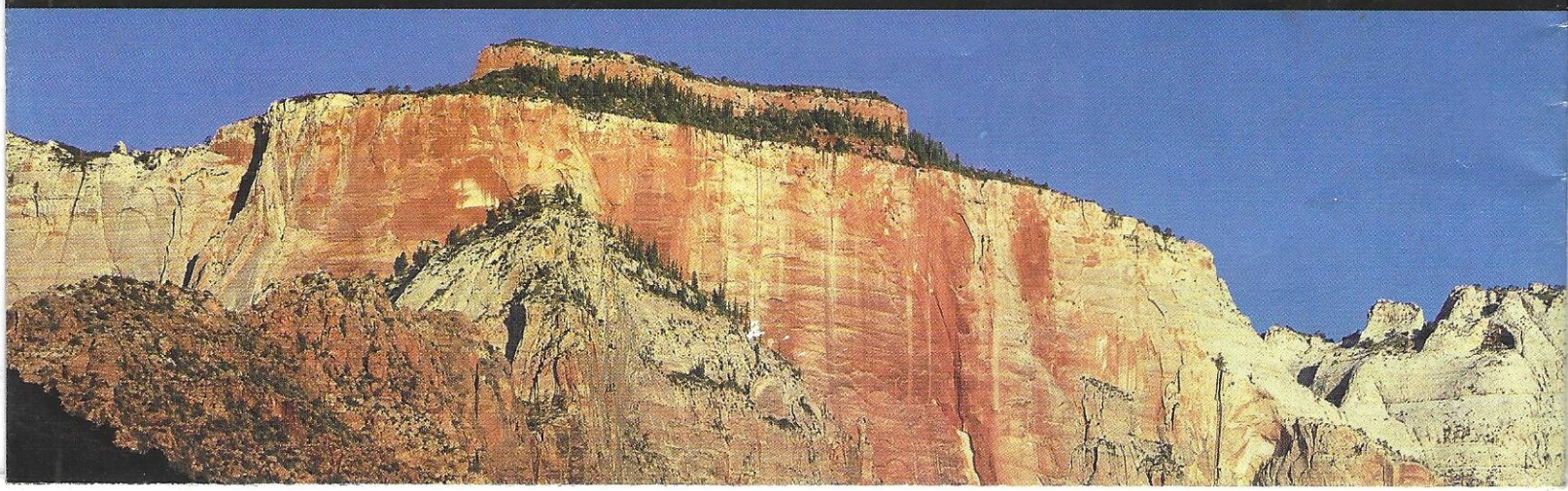
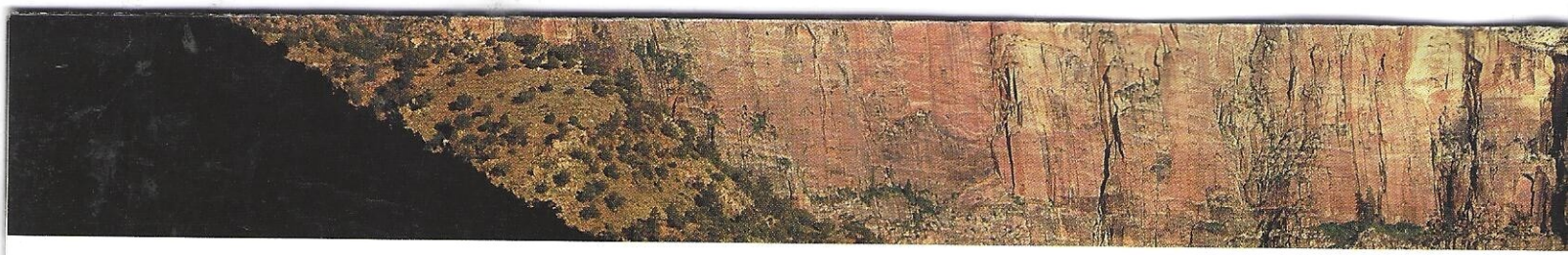
Zion





"There is an eloquence to their forms which stirs the imagination with a singular power and kindles in the mind . . . a glowing response . . . . Nothing can exceed the wondrous beauty of Zion . . . in the nobility and beauty of the sculptures there is no comparison." When geologist Clarence E. Dutton wrote that description in 1880, southern Utah was a wild, rugged

On the Road

Zion Canyon Shuttle

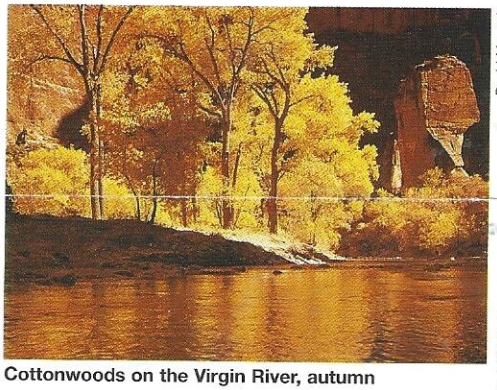
Because of growing traffic, parking problems, and pollution, visitors wishing to travel the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive from April through October will now use a shuttle system. The shuttles follow two loops: one includes nine stops in Zion Canyon; the other has six stops in the town of Springdale. The loops are connected by a footbridge between the Zion Canyon Theater and the Zion Canyon Visitor Center. Visitors can park in Springdale and take the shuttle to the park or park at the visitor center. The shuttle departs frequently from each stop throughout the day, and users can get on and off as often as they wish. The round trip from the visitor center lasts a minimum of 90 minutes. There is a park entrance fee, but the shuttle is free.

Tunnel Restrictions

All buses and many recreational vehicles are too large to pass safely through the long tunnel in two-way traffic. A fee is charged for the escort required for large vehicles to use the tunnel.

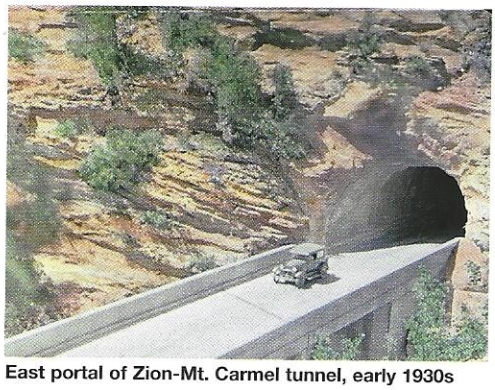
Zion Canyon Scenic Drive Sheer, vividly colored cliffs tower above as you follow this road along the floor of Zion Canyon. This narrow, deep canyon is the centerpiece of the park. It awed early visitors like Frederick Vining Fisher, a Methodist minister who named the Great White Throne, Angels Landing, and many other monoliths. Today the canyon continues to spark a sense of wonder and disbelief in those who come and stand beneath its 2,000- to 3,000-foot-high walls.

At the canyon's bottom flows the Virgin River, a river with the looks of a creek and the muscle of the Colorado. This small river almost singlehandedly carved the profound rock gorge of Zion Canyon. It began its downcutting more than 13 million years ago and continues its work today.



David Muench

Cottonwoods on the Virgin River, autumn



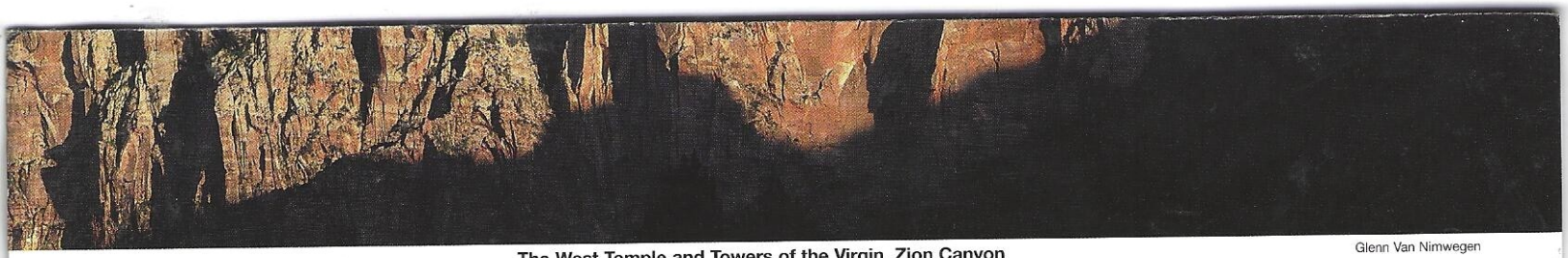
National Park Service

East portal of Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel, early 1930s

Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway Outstanding works of humans and nature compete for attention along this route. Completed in 1930, the road was considered an "almost impossible project," an engineering marvel of its time. Built across rough up-and-down terrain, it connects lower Zion Canyon with the high plateaus to the east. Two narrow tunnels, including one 1.1 miles long, were drilled and blasted through the cliffs to finish the construction job.

As you travel from one side of the long tunnel to the other, the landscape changes dramatically. On one side lies Zion Canyon with its massive cliff walls. The colossal size of the canyon is matched by one of the most striking attractions along this road—the Great Arch of Zion, a "blind" arch carved high in a vertical cliff wall.

Beyond the Road



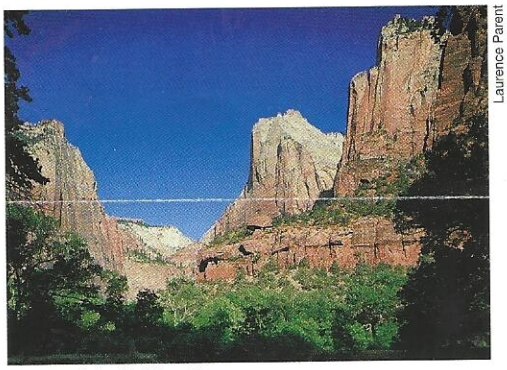
The West Temple and Towers of the Virgin, Zion Canyon

Glenn Van Nimwegen

country of little-known canyons and plateaus. Slowly, scientific reports, magazine articles, and photographs spread the word that deep within this remote territory lay the scenic phenomenon of Zion. Some refused to believe such a place existed, just as others had scoffed at the first stories of Yellowstone. But the massive multicolored vertical cliffs and deep canyons were real, and in 1909 this area was added to the National Park System. Take time and discover Zion on its roads—and beyond.

You may witness the power of the river during a flash flood, when it turns muddy and violent, carrying cottonwoods and boulders like twigs and pebbles.

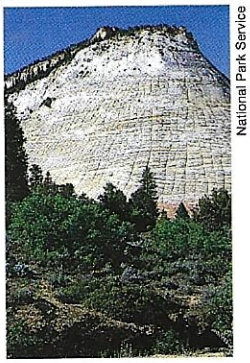
On most days the Virgin winds through the canyon peacefully. Fremont cottonwoods, willows, and velvet ashes along its banks provide shady spots. Mule deer and many birds, too, seek refuge from the extreme midday heat of summer beneath this canopy. Other wildlife, including ringtail cats, bobcats, foxes, rock squirrels, and cottontails, rest under rocky ledges. Look for animals in early morning, evening, and at night, when they are most active. These are also ideal times to see the conspicuous white trumpet-shaped flowers of the sacred datura. This common plant is also called moonlily because its blossoms open in the cooler hours of evening and wilt with the rising heat of the day.



Laurence Parent

Court of the Patriarchs

Ancestral Puebloans and Paiute Indians may have lived in Zion Canyon year-round. Mormon settlers lived here in summer, when dramatic thunderstorms send dozens of waterfalls, large and small, cascading off the cliffs; in autumn, when the green canyon trees turn gold; in the winter, when light snow dusts the rocks; and in the spring, when wildflowers fed by melting snows bloom. You may want to sample a different season on your next visit to Zion Canyon. You can be sure that whenever you return, and no matter how often, Zion Canyon will always repay you generously for the time you spend here.



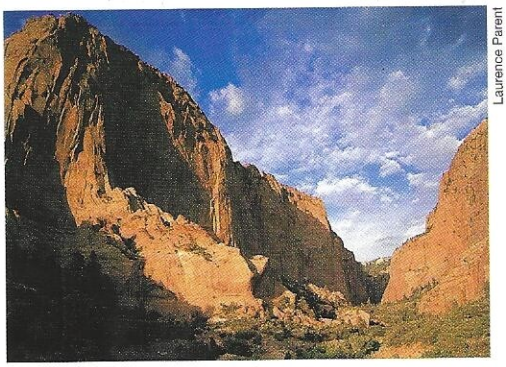
National Park Service

Checkerboard Mesa

On the other side of the tunnel is slickrock country. Here rocks colored in white and pastels of orange and red have eroded into hundreds of fantastic shapes, etched through time with odd patterns of cracks and grooves. The mountain of sandstone known as Checkerboard Mesa stands as the most prominent example of this naturally sculptured rock art.

Roads to the Kolob

Two roads lead into the northwestern corner of the park, where streams have carved spectacular canyons at the edge of the Kolob Terrace. The Kolob Canyons Road enters the park from I-15 at exit 40 and penetrates 5 miles into the Finger Canyons, ending at a high viewpoint. The Kolob Terrace Road overlooks the cliffs of the Left and Right Forks of North Creek. Both routes climb into forests of pinyon and juniper; ponderosa pine, fir, and quaking aspen are found at Lava Point. In summer there is often a feel of mountain coolness to the air atop the Kolob's plateaus. And in the early spring the Kolob is buried under a thick snowpack. The sparkling white of the snow heightens the colors of this already colorful landscape. Interpretive road guides are for sale at the visitor centers.



Laurence Parent

A finger canyon of the Kolob

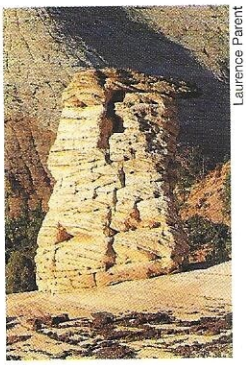
The names of the trails in Zion—Emerald Pools, Hidden Canyon, the Narrows, Canyon Overlook—hint at some of what you can find beyond the road. There are surprises, too—a desert swamp, a petrified forest, springs and waterfalls, and the always unpredictable appearance of wildlife. You may be overwhelmed by the size and scale of the park as it surrounds you, or fascinated by the tiny details of a rock pattern or a cactus bloom.

Before you head out on your first hike, consult "Hiking Zion," a brief guide to the park's trails, on the opposite side of this brochure. Naturalists take guided trips along some of these trails from late March to November. They also lead off-trail hikes through canyons, up the Virgin River, and over slickrock country.

Concessioner-guided horseback trips are offered from March into November. Private horseback parties should check in at either visitor center. In the Zion Canyon portion of the park, only the Sandbench Trail to the Emerald Pools trailhead is open to horses. The large amount of pedestrian traffic throughout the park prevents more extensive use by horses.

Technical climbing is permitted in the park. A backcountry permit is required for overnight climbs. Climbing alone is not recommended. Certain areas may be closed for public safety or resource management concerns; therefore, check routes at the visitor center before beginning your trip.

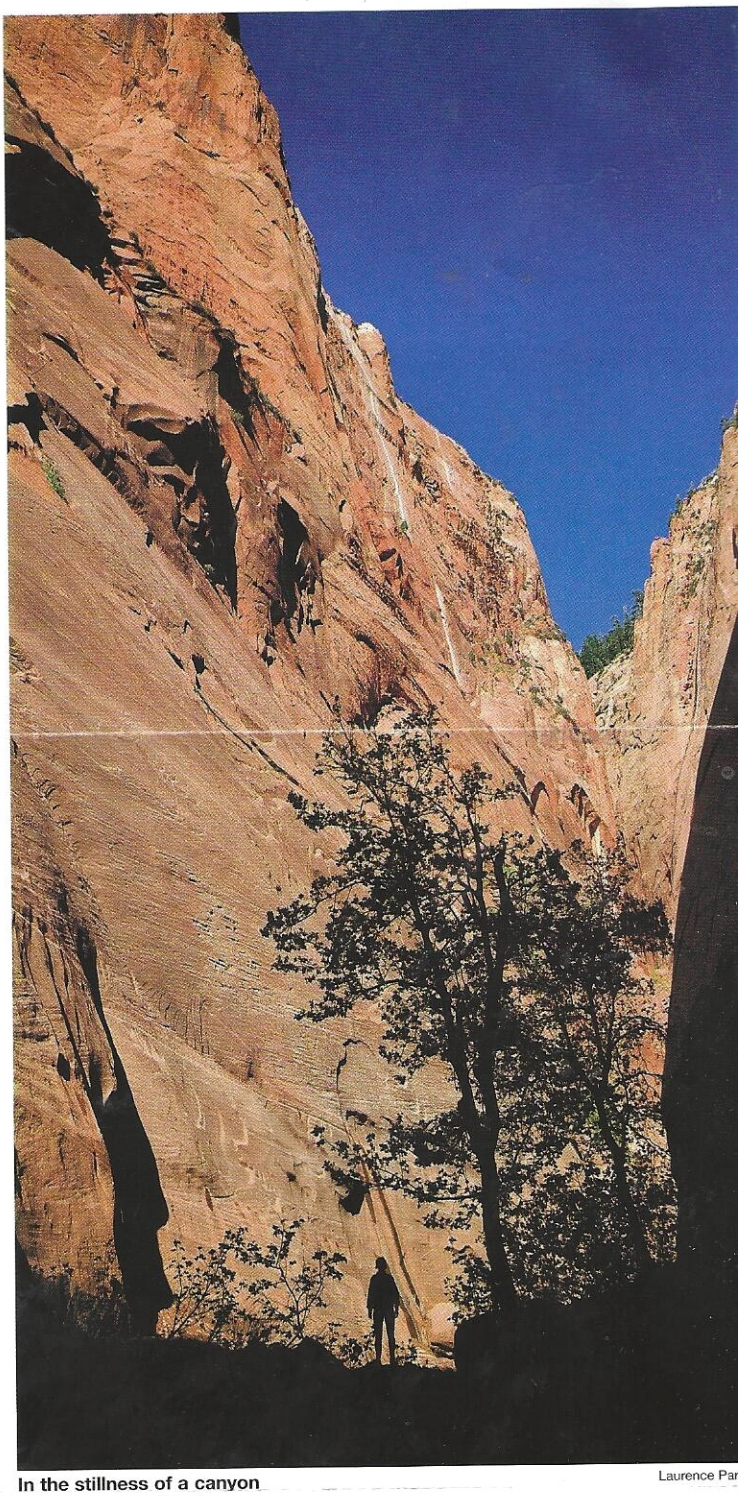
A Gallery of Sculpted Rock A hiker stands dwarfed by the walls of Navajo sandstone in a Zion side canyon. Many visitors enjoy hiking in these places that give overwhelming testimony to the creative powers of erosion. There are many such displays of wind- and water-sculpted rock beyond the road's end. From the plateau rim there are sweeping vistas of Zion Canyon and of other massive canyons to which access is much more difficult. Other trails lead through smaller, narrow side canyons with graceful curving walls as smooth as polished stone.



Laurence Parent

A hoodoo

One observer called Zion "a singular display of nature's art mingled with nonsense." The hoodoos readily seen on the east side of the park reflect this idea well. These weird, iron-capped rocks resemble enormous mushrooms, or king-sized footstools, or whatever your imagination fancies. A multitude of other interesting rock forms—from arches to alcoves to potholes—are scattered here, there, everywhere.



In the stillness of a canyon

Laurence Par

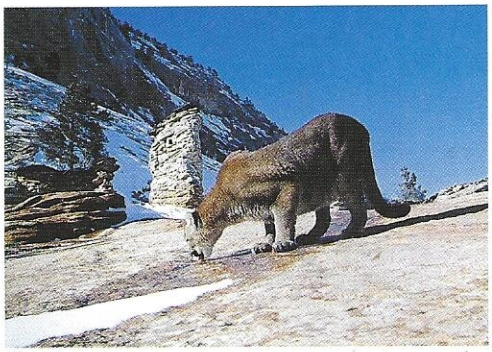
A Refuge for Wildlife The name Zion suggests a place of peace and refuge. This is true not only for visitors but for wildlife as well. The park is a sanctuary for roadrunners and golden eagles, mule deer and mountain lions, cactus and cottonwood. Some of the best opportunities for encountering wildlife are along park trails. You may surprise lizards or Gambel's quail on a hike along a wooded wash on the desert's edge. Or hear echoes of the clear gushing song of the canyon wren in a pygmy forest of pinyon and juniper. Watch for tracks; they may be the closest you get to rarely seen species like the mountain lion or the nocturnal ringtailed cat.

Wildflowers are common throughout the park, particularly in spring and fall. Even where there is nothing more than a tiny pocket of soil in a rock crack, plants manage to take root and grow. Some cliffs, like those at Weeping Rock, are thick with golden and western columbine, scarlet monkey-flower, and maidenhair fern. Springwater seeping through the porous rock walls nourishes these lush hanging gardens.

A Wilderness Preserved Protected within Zion's 229 square miles is a wilderness full of the unexpected. It includes what may be the world's largest arch—Kolob Arch spanning 310 feet—and simpler natural wonders, such as small waterfalls and clear backcountry pools. The fundamental qualities of wild America—quiet and solitude—are here, too.

David Muench

Hanging gardens

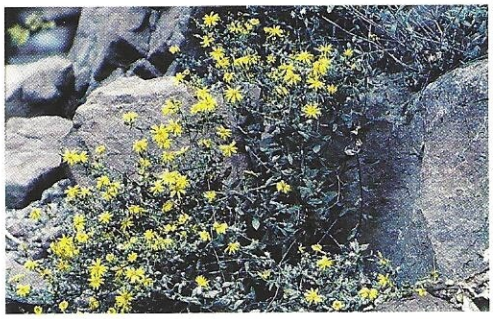


Dale Smith

Mountain lion

National Park Service

Collared lizard

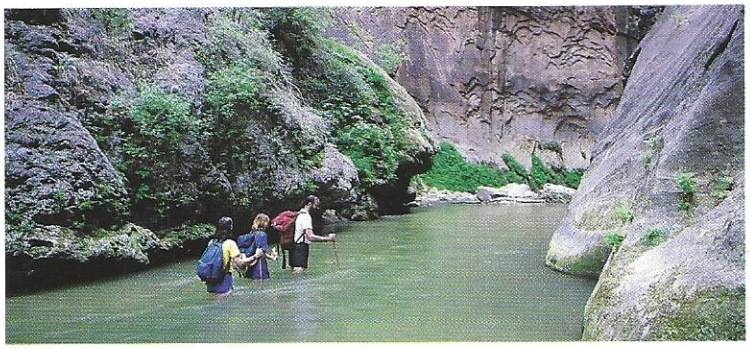


National Park Service

Golden aster

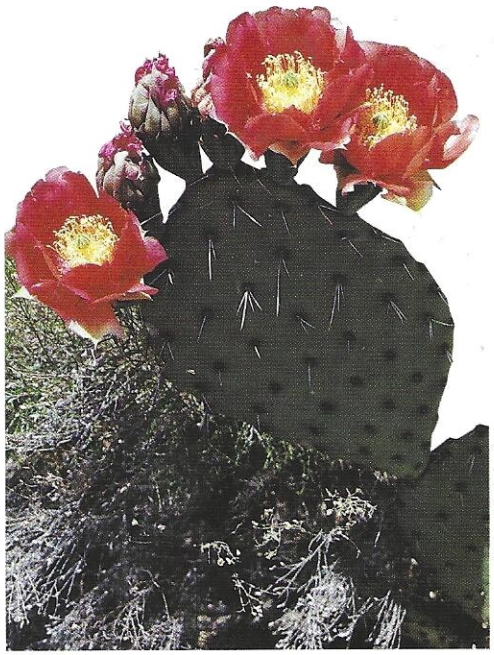
National Park Service

Utah penstemon



Laurence Parent

Hikers in the Virgin River narrows



National Park Service

Prickly pear cactus

General Information and Services

The Zion Canyon Visitor Center offers a wide variety of information and services year-round. Many books and free brochures, topographic maps, and exhibits are available. Park rangers can assist you in planning your visit to get the most out of your time.

The smaller Kolob Canyons Visitor Center offers similar services.

Campgrounds South Campground is open on a first-come, first-served basis. Sites at Watchman Campground can be reserved; call 1-800-365-2267 or visit the http://reservations.nps.gov website. Both campgrounds charge fees; both have fire grates, picnic tables, water, restrooms, and a sanitary disposal station for trailers. Some sites are set aside for people with disabilities. Campsites for groups of 9 to 40 persons are available by reservation.

The Lava Point Primitive Campground is usually open from May to October. Fire grates, tables, and toilets are provided, but there is no water. No fee is charged.

Camping is limited to 14 days and is permitted only in designated sites or in the backcountry.

Picnic Areas There are two picnic areas: the Grotto Picnic Area in Zion Canyon and a site at the end of Kolob Canyons Road. The Grotto has fire grates, picnic tables, water, and restrooms. The Kolob site has tables, fire grates, and pit toilets.

Zion Lodge The lodge has motel units, cabins, a restaurant, cafe, and gift shop and is open all year. For accommodations information contact: AMFAC Parks and Resorts, 14001 East Iliff St., Aurora, CO 89914; 303-297-2757; or visit www.amfac.com. Advance reservations are recommended.

Horseback Rides
Guided rides are avai able from late March to early November. Re ervations and informa tion are available at th lodge, or by writing to Bryce-Zion Trail Rides Inc., P.O. Box 58, Trop UT 84776, or by callin 435-772-3810.

Nearby Services and Accommodations
Springdale, Mt. Carme and the larger towns o Hurricane, St. George Cedar City, and Kanab have motels, restaurar service stations, and grocery stores. A priva campground in Spring

dale has full utility hookups and hot showers. Other campgrounds are located within 25 miles of the park. The nearest hospitals are located in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

Park Activities Guided nature walks, evening programs, and talks are given from late March to November. Activity schedules are posted in the visitor centers and throughout the park.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, children ages 6 through 12 can learn about the park in the Junior Ranger Program, held at the Zion Nature Center.

Fishing A Utah fishing license is required in the park. Angling success is poor.

Climate From May to October temperatures range from 70° to 105°F in the day and from 45° to 75°F at night. Afternoon thunderstorms are common in July and August. Winters are mild in Zion Canyon with temperatures often reaching above 40°F. Little snow falls in Zion Canyon, but snow accumulates on the plateaus. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit the park. During these seasons temperatures range from 45°F at night to 80°F in the day.

Information For more information write: Superintendent, Zion National Park, Springdale, UT 84767-1099; call 435-772-3256; or visit www.nps.gov/zion on the Internet.

For a Safe Visit

Regulations This is your national park. Please help us to preserve and protect it so that future generations may enjoy it, too. We ask that you follow these regulations:

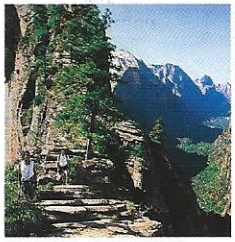
- Permits are required for overnight backcountry use.
- Pets must be leashed and are not allowed in the backcountry, public buildings, or on trails.
- Motorized vehicles and bicycles must stay on established roads.
- Do not feed or molest wildlife or remove or otherwise disturb any natural feature.
- Wood gathering is not permitted in the park.
- In an emergency, contact a ranger or call 1-435-772-3322 or 911.

For Your Safety Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes killed while visiting the national parks.

- When hiking, stay on established trails and watch your footing at all times. Steep slopes and cliff edges are dangerous.
- Do not roll or throw rocks and other things from high places; others may be below you.
- Temperatures can exceed 105°F in the park. Drink lots of water, but do not drink untreated water as it may be contaminated.
- Avoid drainages after thunderstorms or severe weather because of flash floods. Stay away from high points during thunderstorms; lightning can kill.
- Wildlife may appear tame but may attack if threatened. Stay a safe distance away while observing animals.
- Watch your children closely; they often do not recognize potential dangers.

Exploring Zion

Hiking Zion



Laurence Parent

Angel's Landing trail

There are trails in Zion for those who want an easy 10-minute walk, a two-day backpacking trip, or something in between. The chart at right lists the park's most popular trails. When choosing a hike consider not only your time and interests but also your hiking experience, physical fitness, and fear of heights. Easy trails are short and mostly level. Moderately strenuous and strenuous trails require hiking long distances, often uphill. Extreme summer heat makes any hike more difficult and exhausting. Early morning, late afternoon, and evening are best for hiking, unless you come in spring or fall when it is cooler.

Always let a friend or relative know where you are going and when you expect to return. Stay on trails unless you have discussed plans to hike off-trail with a ranger. Carry a topographic map when hiking longer trails. Water is scarce in the backcountry; you should carry one gallon per person per day. Carry some water even on short hikes. Don't drink water you find in the backcountry without boiling or treating it. Carry food on long trips. Pack out all trash. See "For a Safe Visit" (opposite side) for additional important information.

Backcountry Camping Backcountry permits are required to camp on a hiking trip. Permits are issued at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and the Kolob Canyons Visitor Center. Camping is not permitted within one mile of a road or trailhead.

The Narrows The Narrows of Zion Canyon is one of the most popular, and most strenuous, off-trail hikes in the park. Hiking through the Narrows is a 16-mile trip requiring at least one full day. Much of the trip involves wading through the Virgin River. The Narrows may be closed because of the threat of flash floods. Permits are required for trips through the length of the Narrows and its tributaries.

Trail	Trailhead	Round Trip (mi/km)	Round Trip (avg. time)	Ascent (ft/m)	Description
Zion Canyon Trails:					
Weeping Rock	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Weeping Rock parking lot	0.5/0.8	0.5 hour	98/30	**Easy**. Minor dropoffs. S with dripping springs. H spring and summer.
Canyon Overlook	Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, just east of long tunnel	1.0/1.6	1 hour	163/50	**Easy**. Long dropoffs. M visitor center and trailh Pine Creek Canyon.
Emerald Pools	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, opposite Zion Lodge	1.2/1.9	1 hour	69/21	**Easy to moderately st** ends at lower pool and with assistance. To reac strenuous. Upper pool
Riverside Walk	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Temple of Sinawava	2.0/3.2	1.5 hours	57/17	**Easy**. Minor dropoffs. F where paved trail ends. Trailside exhibits. Acces may continue hiking bey involves walking in up to supporting shoes. Avoid plastic bags. Talk to a ra Danger Level before sta
Watchman	Service road, east of Watchman Campground Registration Station	2.0/3.2	2 hours	368/112	**Moderately strenuous** late in the day. Ends at Springdale.
Hidden Canyon	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive-Weeping Rock parking lot	2.0/3.2	3 hours	850/259	**Moderately strenuous** to narrow side canyon i beyond end of trail for a
Angels Landing	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Grotto Picnic Area	5.0/8.0	4 hours	1488/453	**Strenuous**. Long dropo Ends at summit high ab narrow ridge; chains ha
Kolob Trails:					
Taylor Creek	Kolob Canyons Road, 2 miles from Kolob Visitor Center.	5.4/8.6	4 hours	450/137	**Moderately strenuous** past two old cabins to
Kolob Arch	Kolob Canyons Road, Lee Pass	14.4/23.0	9 hours	699/213 (Descent)	**Strenuous**. No dropoffs Verkin Creeks and ends arch.
Extended Backcountry Trails - distances and times are one-way:					
East Rim	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Weeping Rock parking lot	11.6/18.7	7 hours	2400/732	**Strenuous**. Long dropo rim and continues to th Trail provides access to
West Rim	Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Grotto Picnic Area	14/22.5	12 hours	3593/1095	**Strenuous**. Long dropo spectacular views of th

elf-guiding trail. Ends at Weeping Rock, a rock alcove
langing gardens of wildflowers decorate the walls in

ostly fenced. Self-guiding trail. Guidebooks available at
ead. Ends at spectacular view of lower Zion Canyon and

renuous. Long dropoffs on upper route. Lower route
three waterfalls. Accessible to persons with disabilities
h upper pool, hike another 1 mile; this is more
s larger and sits at the base of high cliffs.

llows Virgin River upstream to Zion Canyon Narrows,
Hanging gardens of wildflowers in spring and summer.
s for persons with disabilities with some assistance. You
ond the end of this trail. The route through the Virgin River
4 feet of water and climbing over rocks. Wear ankle
carrying items in your hands and protect cameras in
nger before making this hike and check the Narrows
ting.

Mostly minor dropoffs. Recommended for early and
viewpoint of lower Zion Creek Canyon and town of

Long dropoffs. Not for anyone fearful of heights. Leads
joint of rock. Trail ends at canyon mouth; can hike
nother 0.6 mile.

ffs and narrow trails. Not for anyone fearful of heights.
ove Zion Canyon floor. Last 0.5 mile follows a steep
e been added for safety.

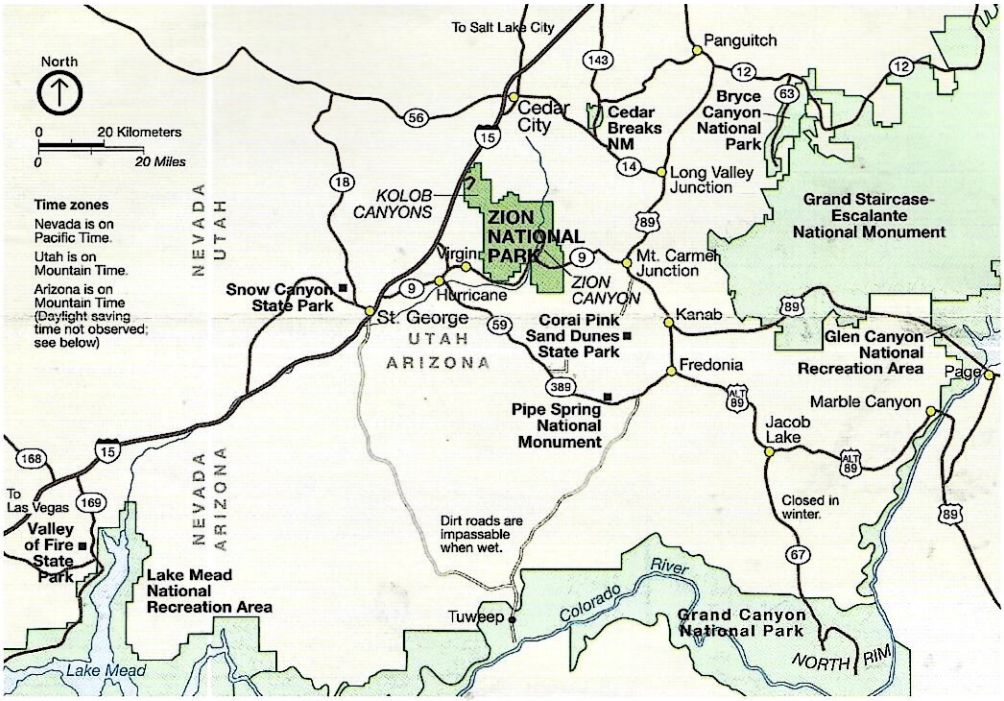
No dropoffs. Follows the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek
Double Arch Alcove. Footwear may get wet fording creek.

. A hot midday hike in summer. Follows Timber and La
at Kolob Arch, possibly the world's largest free-standing

ffs. Climbs Echo Canyon up to the forested top of the
Zion-Mt. Carmel Hwy. at the East Entrance of the park.
Observation Point and to Deertrap and Cable Mountain.

ffs. Climbs to the top of the forested Horse Plateau, with
North Creek drainages. The trail ends at Lava Point.

Traveling in the Area



Zion is part of the Southwest's "Grand Circle" of national parks, monuments, historical areas, and recreation areas—one of the world's great concentrations of outstanding natural and cultural features. Driving distances from Zion Canyon Visitor Center to many of these sites and to area towns are listed here.

Bryce Canyon National Park 86 miles
Cedar Breaks National Monument 76 miles
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Lake Powell) 115 miles
Grand Canyon National Park (North Rim) 119 miles and (South Rim) 253 miles
Lake Mead National Recreation Area 189 miles
Pipe Spring National Monument 63 miles
Cedar City 60 miles
Kanab 41 miles
Las Vegas 158 miles
St. George 43 miles
Salt Lake City 320 miles

Time Zones Be aware of time changes as you travel throughout this region. Nevada (Pacific Time) is always one hour earlier than Utah (Mountain Time). Utah and Nevada observe daylight saving time during the summer; Arizona (Mountain Time) stays on standard time the year round. Thus, Utah and Arizona are on the same time from late October to early April. From early April to late October, Arizona and Nevada are on the same time—one hour earlier than Utah.

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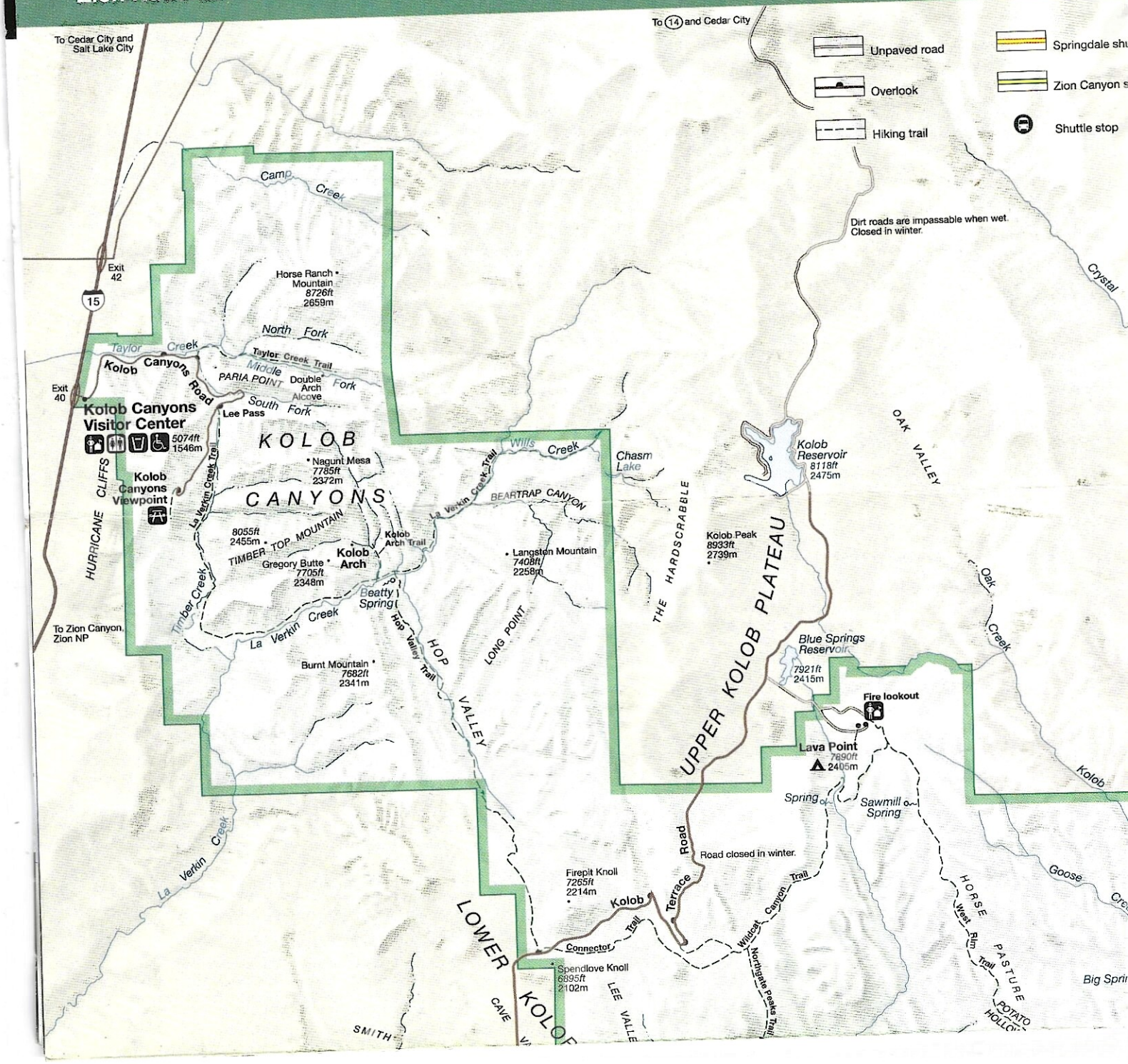
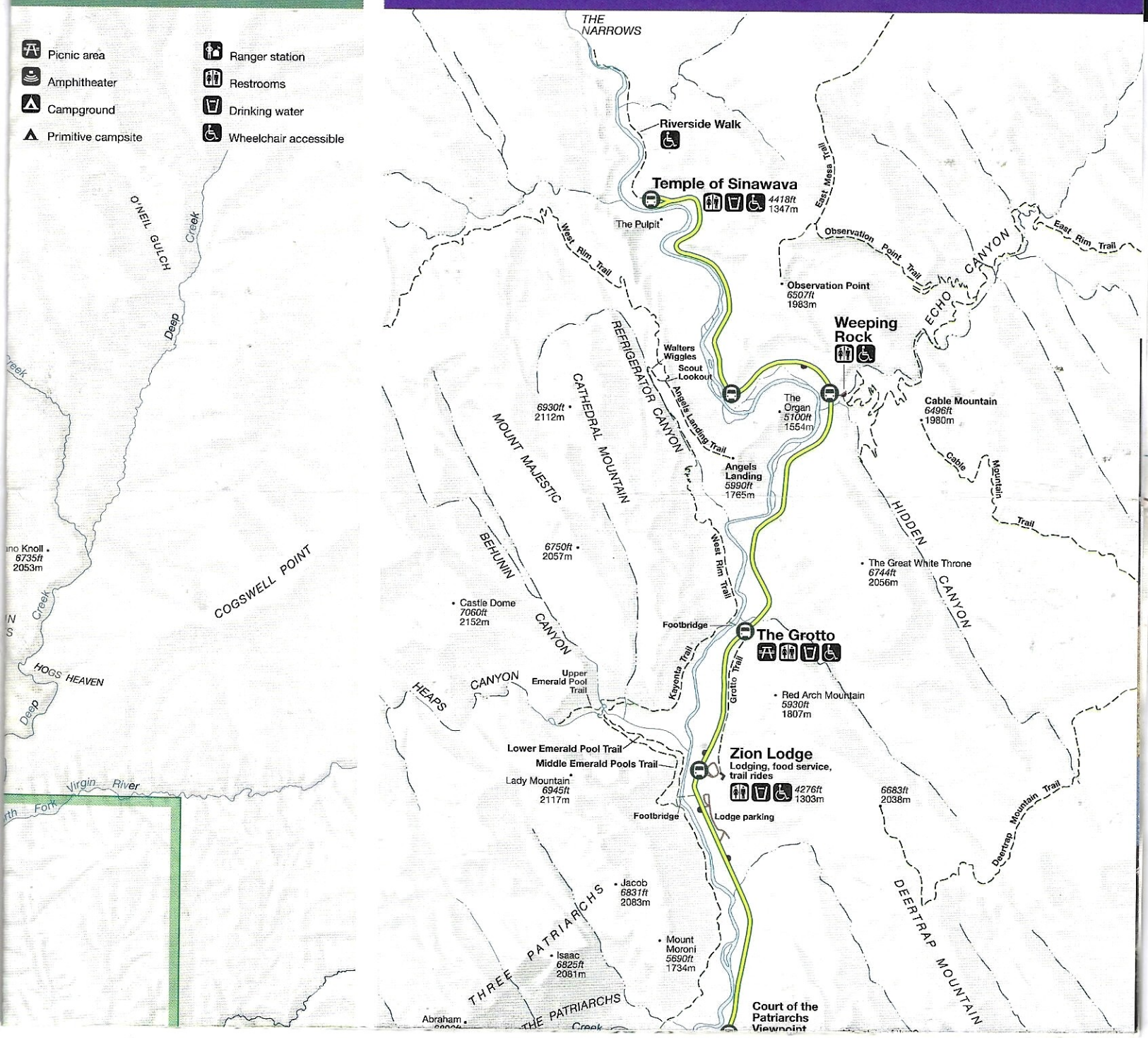
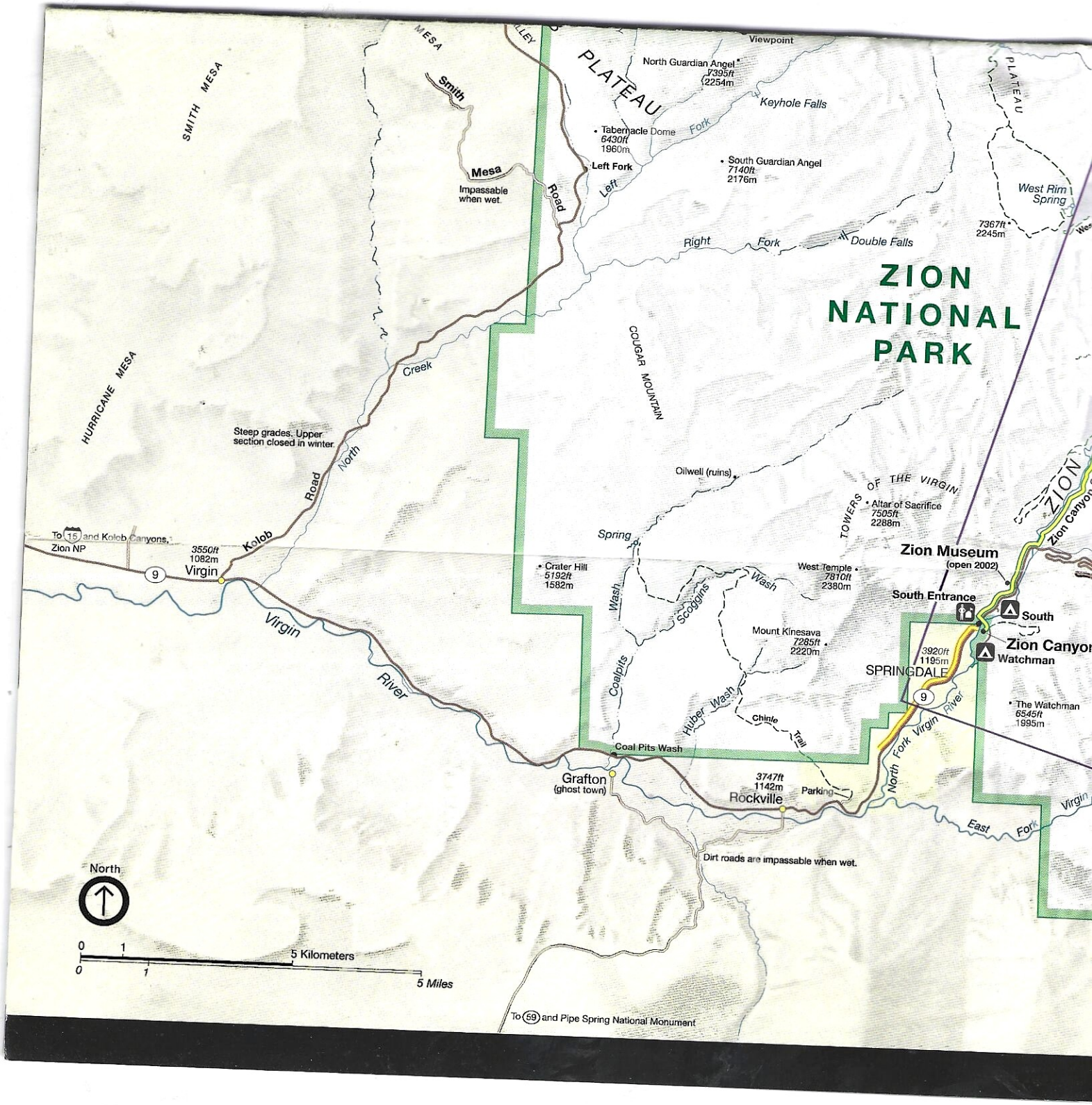
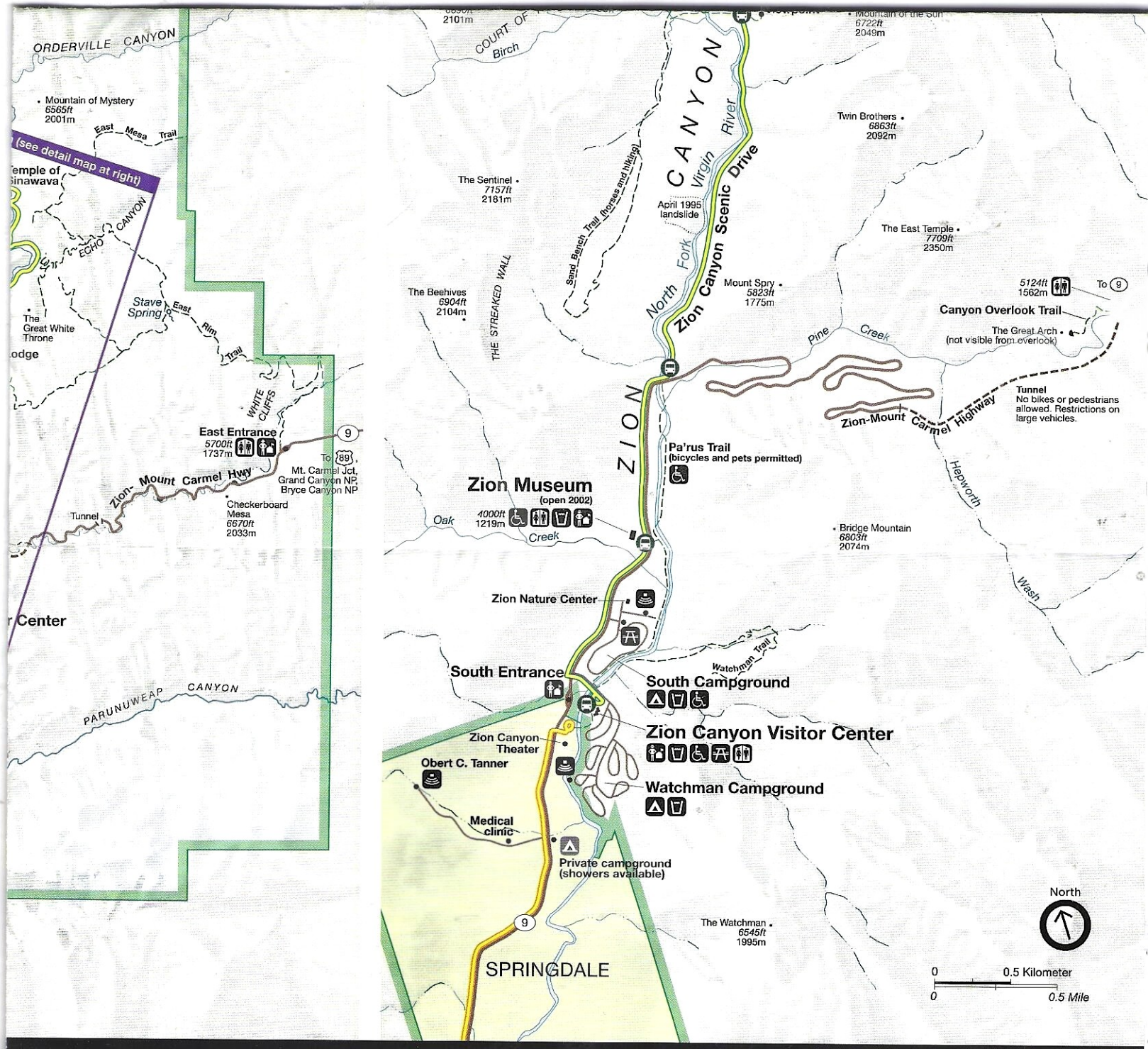
Zion National Park

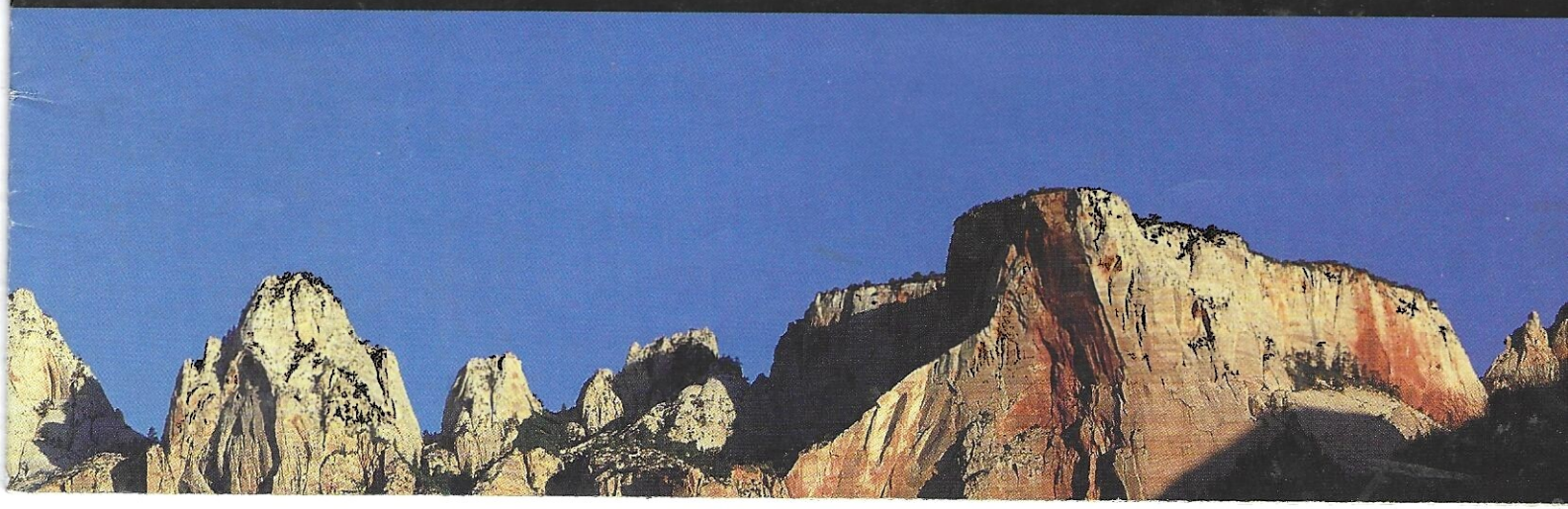


Detail Map of Zion Canyon




ZION NATIONAL PARK
PLATEAU
Viewpoint
North Guardian Angel
7395ft
2254m
Keyhole Falls
Tabernacle Dome
6430ft
1960m
Left Fork
Left Fork
South Guardian Angel
7140ft
2176m
West Rim Spring
7367ft
2245m
Right Fork
Double Falls
SMITH MESA
Smith Mesa
Impassable when wet.
Road
COUGAR MOUNTAIN
HURRICANE MESA
Creek
North Road
Steep grades. Upper section closed in winter.
Oilwell (ruins)
TOWERS OF THE VIRGIN
Altar of Sacrifice
7505ft
2288m
Zion Museum
(open 2002)
South Entrance
South
Zion Canyon
Watchman
To 15 and Kolob Canyons, Zion NP
3550ft
1082m
Virgin
Kolob
Spring
Crater Hill
5192ft
1582m
Wash
Scogins
Wash
West Temple
7810ft
2380m
Mount Kinesava
7285ft
2220m
Coalpits
Huber Wash
Chinle Trail
3920ft
1195m
SPRINGDALE
The Watchman
6545ft
1995m
Virgin River
Coal Pits Wash
Grafton
(ghost town)
3747ft
1142m
Rockville
Parking
North Fork Virgin River
East Fork
Dirt roads are impassable when wet.
North
0 1 5 Kilometers
0 1 5 Miles
To 59 and Pipe Spring National Monument


ORDERVILLE CANYON
Mountain of Mystery
6565ft
2001m
East Mesa Trail
(see detail map at right)
Temple of Sinawava
ECHO CANYON
Stave Spring
East Rim Trail
The Great White Throne
Lodge
WHITE CLIFFS
East Entrance
5700ft
1737m
9
To 89
Mt. Carmel Jct.
Grand Canyon NP,
Bryce Canyon NP
Zion-Mount Carmel Hwy
Checkerboard Mesa
6670ft
2033m
Tunnel
Center
PARUNUWEAP CANYON
2101m
COURT OF
Birch
Mountain of the Sun
6722ft
2049m
ZION CANYON
Virgin River
Twin Brothers
6863ft
2092m
The Sentinel
7157ft
2181m
Sand Bench Trail (horses and hiking)
April 1995 landslide
Zion Canyon Scenic Drive
The East Temple
7709ft
2350m
The Beehives
6904ft
2104m
THE STREAKED WALL
North Fork
Mount Spry
5823ft
1775m
5124ft
1562m
To 9
Canyon Overlook Trail
The Great Arch
(not visible from overlook)
Pine Creek
Tunnel
No bikes or pedestrians allowed. Restrictions on large vehicles.
Zion-Mount Carmel Highway
Pa'rus Trail
(bicycles and pets permitted)
Zion Museum
(open 2002)
4000ft
1219m
Oak Creek
Hepworth Wash
Bridge Mountain
6803ft
2074m
Zion Nature Center
Watchman Trail
South Entrance
South Campground
Zion Canyon Visitor Center
Zion Canyon Theater
Obert C. Tanner
Watchman Campground
Medical clinic
Private campground
(showers available)
9
The Watchman
6545ft
1995m
SPRINGDALE
North
0
0.5 Kilometer
0
0.5 Mile

Zion National Park
Utah

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior